Los A eles County Sheriff's Depa ent

Officer Involved Shooting

Report Date: 03/16/15	Bureau/Station/Facility: South LA Station	Admin. Invest.? [x]	Hit? [x]

Incident Information

URN: 015-02293-0371-055	Date: 03/13/15 Time: 1725 hours
City or Station: SLA	Nature of Incident: Deputies were involved in a vehicle pursuit of a 207 suspect. Suspect exited his vehicle and fired at responding deputies. 3 SLA deputies returned fire, striking the suspect.
Location: [redacted] West 43rd Street Los Angeles	

Location Type (*check one or more*):
- [ ] Backyard
- [ ] Beach
- [ ] Business
- [ ] Freeway
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Park
- [ ] Parking Lot
- [x] Residence
- [ ] Rural
- [ ] School
- [x] Street
- Other:

Lighting (*check only one*):
- [ ] Darkness
- [x] Daylight
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Street Lights

Weather (*circle only one*):
- [x] Clear
- [ ] Cloudy
- [ ] Fog
- [ ] Rain

Distance: 56 yards

Incident Type (*check one or more*):
- [ ] Accidental
- [x] Armed Person
- [x] Fleeing Suspect
- [ ] Foot Pursuit
- [ ] Gun Take Away
- [ ] Moving Vehicle
- [ ] Sniper/Ambush
- [ ] Startle
- [ ] Struggle Involved
- [ ] Traffic Stop
- [ ] Unarmed Person
- [ ] Unintentional
- [x] Vehicle Pursuit
- [ ] Warrant Service
- [ ] Warning Shot
- Other:

Initiated by (*check only one*):
- [ ] Arrest Warrant
- [ ] Call
- [ ] Observation
- [ ] One Person Unit
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Search Warrant
- [x] Two Person Unit

Prior Activity (*check only one*):
- [ ] Detective
- [ ] Inmate Transport
- [ ] Other
- [x] Routine Patrol

Total # of Shots Fired by Deputy: 37

Total # of Shots Fired by Suspect: 5

Aero Unit? [x] Canine Unit? [ ]

Employee Witnesses

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (*check only one*)	ShiftType (*check only one*)
[redacted]	Reyes	Mark		[ ] EM [x] PM [ ] Day	[x] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty
[redacted]	Stewart	Jonathan	A	[ ] EM [x] PM [ ] Day	[x] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty
[redacted]	Williams	Brandon		[ ] EM [x] PM [ ] Day	[x] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
[redacted]	[redacted]	P	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]

Supervisors

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	(*check one or more*)	
[redacted]	Clay	Michael	A	[x] On Duty [x] Present during shooting	[x] Witness to shooting [ ] Involved in shooting
				[ ] On Duty [ ] Present during shooting	[ ] Witness to shooting [ ] Involved in shooting

Watch Sergeant

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	McDaniels	Charles	L

Watch Commander

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Moore	Rodney	K

PSTD Use Only

SH # ____________

Officer Involved Shooting

N: 015-02293-0371-055

Rollout Information

Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Date Submitted	Date of Recommendation
03/13/15	1930	10/11/2017	

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Berg	Michael	
[redacted]	Hamil	Jeffrey	F
[redacted]	Mendoza	Kimberly	A

Shooting / Force Information

Method

(AW) Arwen
(BC) Baton:(Control)
(BI) Baton:(Impact)
(BF) Bodily Fluids
(CN) Canine
(CR) Carotid Restraint
(CH) Choke Hold
(CT) Control Holds:(Control Techniques)
(TT) Control Holds:(Team Takedown)
(TD) Control Holds:(Takedown)
(CE) Chemical
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)
(EX) Explosives
(FH) Firearm (Handgun)
(FR) Firearm (Rifle)
(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)
(FO) Firearm (Other)
(FB) Flashbang
(FL) Flashlight
(OE) Other Weapon: Edged
(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle
(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(OO) Other Weapon: Other
(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)
(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(RS) Resistance
(CN) Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(HB) Restraint Device:Hobble (Legs Only)
(TP) Restraint Device:Hobble (TARP)
(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(SP) Sap
(SH) Shield
(SG) 37mm Stinger
(SB) Sting Ball
(ST) Stun Bag
(TR) Taser
(UC) Uncooperative

Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion
(BR) Bruise
(BU) Burn
(CP) Complaint of Pain
(CO) Concussion
(DH) Death
(DI) Dislocation
(DB) Dog Bite
(FR) Fractures
(GS) Gunshot
(HB) Human Bite
(LC) Lacerations
(ND) Nerve Damage
(OD) Organ Damage
(PA) Paralysis
(PW) Puncture Wound
(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(ST) Sprain/Twists
(UN) Unconscious
(RM) Refused Med Treatment
(NN) NONE

Body Part Injured

(AD) Abdomen
(AK) Ankle
(AR) Arm
(BK) Back
(BT) Buttocks
(CH) Chest
(EL) Elbow
(FA) Face
(FE) Feet
(FI) Fingers
(GE) Genitals
(GR) Groin
(HD) Hand
(HE) Head
(HI) Hip
(IN) Internal
(KN) Knees
(LE) Leg
(NK) Neck
(SH) Shoulder
(WR) Wrist

Brand

(AK) AK-47
(BN) Benelli
(BR) Beretta
(BW) Browning
(CH) Charter Arms
(CO) Colt
(DA) Davis Industries
(GL) Glock
(HA) Harrington & Richardson
(HI) Hi Standard
(HK) H & K
(IT) Ithica
(IV) Iver Johnson
(JE) Jennings
(LO) Lorcin
(LU) Luger
(MA) Marlin
(MO) Mossberg
(NC) NCI aka SKS
(NA) North American
(NO) Norinco
(RA) Raven
(RM) Remington
(RG) RG
(RI) RGI
(RO) Rossi
(SW) Smith & Wesson
(SR) Sturm Ruger
(SS) SIG Sauer
(ST) Sterling
(TA) Taurus
(WE) Weatherby
(WN) Winchester
(US) US Government
(YY) Handmade (Inmate)
(XX) Homemade (Non-Inmate)
(ZZ) Other Brand

Caliber

(9) 9 mm
(10) 10 mm
(12) 12 guage
(20) 20 guage
(21) .22-250
(22) .22 caliber
(23) .223 caliber
(24) .243 caliber
(25) .25 caliber
(30) .308 caliber
(35) .357 caliber
(36) 30-60 caliber
(38) .38 caliber
(40) .40 caliber
(41) .410 guage
(44) .44 caliber
(45) .45 caliber
(50) 50 mm
(SL) Slug
(WW) Other caliber

FORCE APPLIED *(one code per block)*

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Brand (Code)	Caliber (Code)	Authorized Weapon? (Y/N)	Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
S-1	E-1	FO	ZZ	WW			NN	
S-1	E-2	FO	ZZ	WW			NN	
S-1	E-3	FO	ZZ	WW			NN	
E-1	S-1	FH	SS	9	Y	Y	GS	AD
E-2	S-1	FH	BR	9	Y	Y		
E-3	S-1	FH	SW	9	Y	Y		

See Front Side

Officer Involved Shooting
Involved Employee Information

URN: 015-02293-0371-055

Involved Employee

E 1

Field	Value
Employee #	[redacted]
Last Name	Rojas
First Name	Alan
M.I.	
Sex	M
Race	H
Rank	Deputy
Unit Assignment	SLA
Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)	Unit 32
ShiftTime (*circle only one*)	[ ] EM [x] PM [ ] Day
ShiftType (*circle only one*)	[x] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty
Intoxication/Drug Usage?	[ ]
Substance Used	
Hospital Admission?	[ ]
Hospital Name	
Coroner Case?	[ ]
Coroner Case #	
Interviewed?	[x]
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting	8
Duty Time (hrs)	[redacted]
Clothing (*circle only one*)	[ ] Plain Clothes no Vest [ ] Plain Clothes w/ Vest [ ] Raid Jacket no Vest [ ] Raid Jacket w/ Vest [ ] Uniform no Vest [x] Uniform w/ Vest
Other Factors	
Age	32
Height	6-2
Weight	230
Range Qualification Date	[redacted]
PPC Qualification Date	[redacted]
Laser Training Date	[redacted]
Certified with Weapon Used?	[redacted]
Patrol Certification?	[redacted]
Certification Unit	SLA
Prior Shootings?	[redacted]
Number of Prior Shootings	[redacted]
Directed Force	[ ]
Weapons Fired Brand	Sig Sauer
Caliber	9mm
# Shots	13
Weapons Fired Brand	
Caliber	
# Shots	
Field Training Officer Emp #	[redacted]
Last Name	[redacted]
First Name	[redacted]
M.I.	[redacted]
Field Training Officer Emp #	[redacted]
Last Name	[redacted]
First Name	[redacted]
M.I.	

E 2

Field	Value
Employee #	[redacted]
Last Name	Estrella
First Name	Javier
M.I.	
Sex	M
Race	H
Rank	Deputy
Unit Assignment	SLA
Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)	Unit 32
ShiftTime (*circle only one*)	[ ] EM [x] PM [ ] Day
ShiftType (*circle only one*)	[x] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty
Intoxication/Drug Usage?	[ ]
Substance Used	
Hospital Admission?	[ ]
Hospital Name	
Coroner Case?	[ ]
Coroner Case #	
Interviewed?	[x]
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting	8
Duty Time (hrs)	[redacted]
Clothing (*circle only one*)	[ ] Plain Clothes no Vest [ ] Plain Clothes w/ Vest [ ] Raid Jacket no Vest [ ] Raid Jacket w/ Vest [ ] Uniform no Vest [x] Uniform w/ Vest
Other Factors	
Age	39
Height	5-7
Weight	178
Range Qualification Date	[redacted]
PPC Qualification Date	[redacted]
Laser Training Date	[redacted]
Certified with Weapon Used?	[redacted]
Patrol Certification?	[redacted]
Certification Unit	SLA
Prior Shootings?	[redacted]
Number of Prior Shootings	[redacted]
Directed Force	[ ]
Weapons Fired Brand	Beretta
Caliber	9mm
# Shots	7
Weapons Fired Brand	
Caliber	
# Shots	
Field Training Officer Emp #	[redacted]
Last Name	[redacted]
First Name	[redacted]
M.I.	[redacted]
Field Training Officer Emp #	[redacted]
Last Name	[redacted]
First Name	[redacted]
M.I.	

E 3

Field	Value
Employee #	[redacted]
Last Name	Gomez
First Name	Samuel
M.I.	
Sex	M
Race	H
Rank	Deputy
Unit Assignment	SLA
Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)	Unit 31
ShiftTime (*circle only one*)	[ ] EM [x] PM [ ] Day
ShiftType (*circle only one*)	[x] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty
Intoxication/Drug Usage?	[ ]
Substance Used	
Hospital Admission?	[ ]
Hospital Name	
Coroner Case?	[ ]
Coroner Case #	
Interviewed?	[x]
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting	8
Duty Time (hrs)	[redacted]
Clothing (*circle only one*)	[ ] Plain Clothes no Vest [ ] Plain Clothes w/ Vest [ ] Raid Jacket no Vest [ ] Raid Jacket w/ Vest [ ] Uniform no Vest [x] Uniform w/ Vest
Other Factors	
Age	35
Height	5-9
Weight	170
Range Qualification Date	[redacted]
PPC Qualification Date	[redacted]
Laser Training Date	[redacted]
Certified with Weapon Used?	[redacted]
Patrol Certification?	[redacted]
Certification Unit	SLA
Prior Shootings?	[redacted]
Number of Prior Shootings	[redacted]
Directed Force	[ ]
Weapons Fired Brand	Smith @ Wesson
Caliber	9mm
# Shots	17
Weapons Fired Brand	
Caliber	
# Shots	
Field Training Officer Emp #	[redacted]
Last Name	[redacted]
First Name	[redacted]
M.I.	[redacted]
Field Training Officer Emp #	
Last Name	
First Name	
M.I.	

See Other Side

Officer Involved Shooting
Suspect Information

URN: 015-02293-0371-055

Suspect Information

S 1

Last Name: Puga	First Name: Hector	M.I.: J
AKA Last Name: Silent	First Name:	M.I.:

Sex: M Race: H	Street Address: Unknown	City:	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone: [redacted]	Social Security #: [redacted]	Driver's License #: [redacted]
Age: 26 D.O.B. 01/17/1989	Height: 5-8 Weight: 260	FBI #: [redacted]	CII #:
Booking #: 4275561	Primary Charge: 245 PC	Secondary Charge: 207 PC	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #:	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☑	Substance Used: Methamphetamine
Armed? ☑	Apprehended? ☑	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☑
Vehicle Make: Chevy		Model: Tahoe	Year: 1997

S

Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
AKA Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City:	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #:	CII #:
Booking #:	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #:	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make:		Model:	Year:

S

Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
AKA Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City:	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #:	CII #:
Booking #:	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #:	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make:		Model:	Year:

S

Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
AKA Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City:	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #:	CII #:
Booking #:	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #:	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make:		Model:	Year:

See Other Side

SUPPLEMENTAL NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Street Address	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYEE WITNESSES
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Employee Witnesses

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Street Address	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
[redacted]	Steven	J	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

DEPUTY INVOLVED HIT SHOOTING

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

CASE NUMBER: **SH2375981**

SUSPECT: **Hector Javier Puga, 01/17/1989**

STATION/DIVISION: **South Los Angeles Station/Central Patrol Division**

DATE/TIME/DAY: **March 13, 2015, 1700 hours, Friday**

LOCATION: [redacted] **West 43rd Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90037**

On March 13, 2015, Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Lieutenant Michael Berg, Sergeants Jeff Hamil and Kim Mendoza, responded to Vermont Avenue and West 43rd Street, in the city of Los Angeles, regarding a deputy involved shooting involving personnel from South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station (SLA). Suspect Puga sustained two gunshot wounds and was transported to California Hospital Medical Center **(Exhibit A, pages 111-112)**.

Detectives Aden Torres and Francis Hardiman, under the supervision of Lieutenant Eddie Hernandez, from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau, arrived and assumed control of the investigation. For further information refer to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homicide case book under file number 015-02293-0371-055 **(Exhibit A)**.

Lieutenant Berg took reasonable steps to ensure involved and witness personnel did not discuss the incident amongst themselves.

SYNOPSIS:

On March 8, 2015, Deputy Adriana Rojas [redacted] (Lakewood Sheriff's Station), responded to [redacted] West 43rd Street, in the city of Los Angeles, for a spousal assault report call. The assault occurred earlier in the day in the city of Lakewood. Deputy Adriana Rojas documented the assault under file number 915-04819-1368-050 **(Exhibit A, pages 148-187)**.

Deputy Adriana Rojas interviewed the victim (Witness [redacted]) and Witness [redacted] told Deputy Adriana Rojas she (Witness [redacted]) was separated from her [redacted] Hector Puga (Suspect Puga). Witness [redacted] said she was at a party when Suspect Puga arrived. Suspect Puga left the party after an argument with another guest. Suspect Puga walked to his vehicle (1997 White Chevrolet Tahoe license number [redacted]) and told Witness [redacted] to get into his vehicle.

Witness [redacted] saw a handgun in Suspect Puga's waistband and fearing Suspect Puga would become violent, she got into the vehicle. Suspect Puga drove around for several hours stopping at several locations to eat and to buy narcotics. During the time Witness [redacted] was driven around by Suspect Puga, he struck Witness [redacted] numerous times on the face and head with a black and grey semi-automatic handgun. Suspect Puga also kicked and punched Witness [redacted] on multiple occasions during the night. Witness [redacted] said Suspect Puga bought and smoked an unknown type of narcotic during the night out of a glass pipe. Witness [redacted] said Suspect Puga would shoot the handgun out of the vehicle's open window as he drove.

Deputy Adriana Rojas took photographs of Witness [redacted] injuries and her clothing with blood on them **(Exhibit G)**. Based on the severity of Witness [redacted] injuries, Deputy Adriana Rojas had Suspect Puga's vehicle entered into the Stolen Vehicle System (SVS) as a felony armed and dangerous vehicle. Deputy Adriana Rojas advised her [redacted] Deputy Alan Rojas, of the incident because Suspect Puga was known to frequent SLA patrol area.

On March 13, 2015, at approximately 1700 hours, SLA unit 32 (Deputies Alan Rojas and Javier Estrella), drove east on 99th Street at Budlong Avenue, in the city of Los Angeles. They observed a white Chevrolet Tahoe matching the description of the vehicle wanted by the Lakewood Sheriff's Station. The vehicle was driving east on 99th Street and Deputy Estrella (passenger) entered the vehicle's license plate into the Mobil Digital Computer (MDC) and confirmed it was the felony armed and dangerous vehicle they were looking for.

The vehicle stopped on 99th Street before Deputies Rojas and Estrella could coordinate a felony traffic stop. They had not activated their overhead lights. Suspect Puga exited the vehicle and Deputy Rojas (driver) exited the patrol car and ordered Suspect Puga to get on the ground. Deputy Estrella advised Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC) they were detaining an armed and dangerous suspect at gunpoint **(Exhibit G, SCC radio traffic)**. Suspect Puga responded "fuck you," then re-entered his white Tahoe and drove east on 99th street.

Deputy Rojas got back into the patrol car and initiated a pursuit of Suspect Puga. Deputy Estrella broadcasted they were in pursuit **(SCC radio traffic)**. SLA Units 31 (Deputies Samuel Gomez and Mark Reyes), 31B (Deputies Brandon Williams and Jonathan Stewart) and 31S (Sergeant Michael Clay) joined the pursuit. Aero Bureau, Air 21 (pilot James Wolfhope #[redacted] and observer Steven Mills) arrived over the pursuit approximately five minutes after the pursuit was initiated and took control of broadcasting the pursuit. SLA Watch Commander, Lieutenant Rodney Moore, established a direct line (cold line) with SCC, and assumed command of the pursuit

(Exhibit G, cold line recording). The pursuit lasted twenty six minutes and twenty two seconds, and traveled approximately fifteen miles.

> **IAB Note: IAB Investigators mapped the pursuit (Exhibit B) and documented the pursuit in the pursuit synopsis section and radio, video review section of the Pursuit Evaluation.**

During the pursuit, Suspect Puga drove at excessive speeds (60 MPH), failed to stop for posted stop signs, failed to stop at red lights, collided with another vehicle, and drove in the opposite lanes of traffic. Suspect Puga drove in a manner that was dangerous to pedestrian traffic. During the pursuit, SLA units engaged and disengaged (surveillance mode) on three occasions due to Suspect Puga slowing or stopping his vehicle. SLA units unsuccessfully attempted to deploy a "Spike Strip" on Vermont Avenue. During the pursuit, SLA units communicated plans for a containment or a felony traffic stop if Suspect Puga stopped his vehicle or fled on foot.

Suspect Puga stopped his vehicle in the roadway of West 43rd Street, facing east, in front of his [redacted] house ([redacted] West 43rd Street). Suspect Puga exited his vehicle and retrieved a silver colored handgun from his waistband. Air 21 broadcasted the information to the SLA units that were still driving north on Vermont Avenue **(SCC radio traffic)**. The patrol cars drove east on West 43rd Street and stopped approximately one hundred and sixty to one hundred and seventy feet west of Suspect Puga. Deputies Rojas and Estrella were in the first car, and Deputies Gomez and Reyes stopped behind them. Deputies Stewart and Williams stopped their vehicle to the south of Deputies Gomez and Reyes **(Exhibit G, [redacted] surveillance video)**.

Suspect Puga walked west toward the deputies and chambered a round into the firearm he was holding. Suspect Puga raised the firearm at the deputies and fired. Deputy Gomez had positioned himself behind Deputy Rojas' vehicle door for cover. Deputies Gomez, Rojas and Estrella returned fire. Suspect Puga ran back toward his vehicle and continued to fire at the deputies. Suspect Puga fell as he ran, and quickly got up and ran to the front porch of [redacted] West 43rd Street **(Exhibit G, You Tube video, [redacted] surveillance video)**.

SLA deputies used two radio cars as mobile cover to approach Suspect Puga and obtain a visual observation of Suspect Puga. SLA deputies were directed to Suspect Puga's location by Air 21 **(SCC radio traffic, You Tube Video)**. SLA deputies set a containment and Deputies Gomez and Williams took a position of cover behind a vehicle, directly across the street from Suspect Puga. Deputy Williams deployed the M-4 patrol rifle. SLA deputies evacuated the residences to the east and west of Suspect Puga.

Deputy Gomez continued to communicate with Suspect Puga in an attempt to have him surrender. During that time, Suspect Puga would either hold the firearm in his hand or place it on the porch next to him.

SLA deputies were relieved from their containment positions by members from the Special Enforcement Bureau. Members from the Special Enforcement Bureau evacuated the residences from [redacted] West 43rd Street through a rear window. Deputy Gomez continued to communicate with Suspect Puga, who would continuously sit up or lay down on the porch. Suspect Puga kept his firearm near him at all times. During the approximate one hour and twenty minutes Suspect Puga was on the porch, Suspect Puga would drink water from a hose, and on three occasions he smoked narcotics (Methamphetamine) from a glass pipe.

Deputy Gomez was able to convince Suspect Puga to surrender at 1847 hours. Suspect Puga was taken into custody without further incident by members of the Special Enforcement Bureau. Suspect Puga was transported to California Hospital for treatment for his gunshot wounds **(SCC radio traffic, You Tube Video)**.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S LETTER OF OPINION:

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office reviewed the shooting of Suspect Puga by Deputies Gomez, Rojas and Estrella. In their letter of opinion **(Exhibit H)**, dated November 3, 2016, Deputy District Attorney James Garrison concluded Deputies Gomez, Rojas and Estrella acted lawfully in self-defense.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL:

Rojas, Alan, Deputy, [redacted] South Los Angeles Station	MH/32, 6-2, 230 lbs. Right Handed
Date of Employment:	11/08/2006
Date assigned to SLA Station:	03/17/2013
Prior Shooting Incidents:	[redacted]
Estrella, Javier, Deputy, [redacted] South Los Angeles Station	MH/39, 5-7, 178 lbs. Right Handed
Date of Employment:	06/26/2006
Date assigned to SLA Station:	08/12/2012
Prior Shooting Incidents:	[redacted]

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

DEPUTY INVOLVED HIT SHOOTING

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

Gomez, Samuel, Deputy, [redacted] MH/35, 5-9, 170 lbs. Right Handed
South Los Angeles Station

Date of Employment: 03/01/2006
Date assigned to SLA Station: 04/2010
Prior Shooting Incidents: [redacted]

SUSPECT:

Hector Javier Puga, MH/28, DOB: 01/17/1989, 5-9, 210 lbs.

The Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System [redacted] **(Suspect Puga's Criminal History is included in (Exhibit A, pages 189-225)**.

DEPARTMENT WITNESSES:

Reyes, Mark, (SLA), [redacted]
Stewart, Jonathan, (SLA) [redacted]
Williams, Brandon, (SLA) [redacted]
Clay, Michael, (SLA), [redacted]
Mills, Steven, (Aero Bureau) [redacted]
Moore, Rodney, (SLA) [redacted]

NON-DEPARTMENT WITNESS:


[redacted], MB, [redacted]
[redacted], FB, [redacted]
[redacted], FH, [redacted]
[redacted], FH, [redacted]

SUSPECT INJURIES:

Suspect Puga sustained two gunshot wounds to his torso. He was treated at California Hospital Medical Center, and released to the Los Angeles County jail medical ward **(Exhibit A, pages 111-114)**.

EMPLOYEE INJURIES:

None

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

DEPUTY INVOLVED HIT SHOOTING

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:

Numerous items of evidence were collected by personnel from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Scientific Services Division (crime lab). Suspect Puga's firearm was among the items recovered and collected as evidence. Crime scene sketches and legends are included in **(Exhibit C)**. A CD containing crime scene photographs is in **(Exhibit G)**. A list with descriptions of evidence collected by the crime lab is included in the IAB case book **(Exhibit A, pages 35-43)**.

DISTANCES:

Distances of shots fired were estimated from fifty to fifty six yards. Measurements by the crime lab are included in the IAB case book **(Exhibit C)**.

INVESTIGATORS OBSEVATIONS:

The scene was described in detail by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau Investigators and documented with photographs. The scene description covered the entire incident and shooting location **(Exhibit A pages 44-52)**. The descriptions were consistent with the observations of the IAB investigators who responded to the scene.

VEHICLE PURSUIT SYNOPSIS:

The duration of the vehicle pursuit was twenty six minutes and twenty two seconds. IAB investigators obtained the Suspect's route of travel from the SCC radio traffic. The total distance of the pursuit was approximately fifteen miles. IAB investigators mapped the pursuit route which is included with the Pursuit Evaluation form **(Exhibit B)**.

Suspect Puga's route of travel during the pursuit, including surveillance mode is as follows:

Suspect Puga drove east on 99th Street and drove south in a north/south alley, west of Vermont Avenue. He continued west on Century Boulevard to north Normandy Avenue, west on 88th Street and north on Halldale Avenue. He continued east on Manchester Avenue north on Normandy Avenue, east on 64st Street, north on Raymond Avenue, west on 62nd Street, north on Normandy Avenue, east on 61st Street, north on Vermont Avenue, west on 58th Street. Suspect Puga continued north on Budlong Avenue, east on 54th Street, north on Vermont Avenue to east West 43rd Street.

Suspect Puga drove north on Hoover Street, east on 42nd Street, south in the north/south alley, east on West 43rd Street, north Vermont Avenue to east on Martin

Luther King Boulevard. Suspect Puga continued south on Figueroa Street to east on Vernon Avenue and south on Flower Avenue to west on 58th Street and south on Figueroa Street. He drove west on 59th to south on Hoover Street, west on 60th Street, and north on Menlo Avenue. West on 59th Street to south on Vermont Avenue, west on 61st to north on Normandy Avenue, west on 59th Place, north on Western Avenue, east on Vernon Avenue, north on Vermont Avenue to east on West 43rd Street.

REVIEW OF RADIO TRANSMISSIONS:

Main working frequency, Dispatch-12 (timelines based off Windows Media player digital display times).

03:37-Unit 32 initiates emergent radio traffic, advised in pursuit.
04:55-Update location to north on Normandy Avenue, speed 60 MPH.
05:10-Suspect vehicle in traffic collision at 92 Street and Normandy Avenue.
06:27-Air 21 advised they are forty seconds out.
07:32-Air 21 over the pursuit and broadcasting the pursuit.
10:05-SCC broadcasts for units to initiate surveillance mode.
11:00-Air 21 acknowledges surveillance mode.
11:30-Air 21 adjusts the distance of following units.
12:49-Air 21 advised Suspect vehicle had stopped, and takes off again.
14:51-Air 21 adjust the distance of following units, back into surveillance mode.
19:45-Air 21 advised units are still in surveillance mode, Suspect vehicle out of sight of units.
22:35-Air 21 advised Suspect has stopped to let units catch up.
28:17-Air 21 advised the Suspect had stopped on West 43rd Street, exits vehicle with a gun in his right hand. Advised Suspect is shooting at deputies.
28:30-Air 21 advised 998, Suspect is shooting at deputies.
29:08-Deputy Gomez starts setting containment with Air 21.
46:50-Suspect on porch smoking Methamphetamine.
1:06:14- Units switch to A-Tac-2, tactical frequency.

A-Tac-2, Tactical Frequency (Digital display times)

01:30-([redacted] West 43rd Street) evacuated.
Tactical operation continued
20:37-Suspect in custody.

Cold Line (Digital display times)

00:20-Cold line established with SCC.
01:40-Verified named Suspect, confirmed "207 and 245" vehicle.

02:34-Requested condition update.
02:34-Requested Spike Strip deployment.
03:22-Requested speed and traffic condition update.
04:58-Requested speed and traffic update.
05:40-Advised SCC to initiate surveillance mode.
07:29-Air-21 acknowledges surveillance mode.
09:15-Advised SCC to have units return to surveillance mode.
10:47-Requested Spike Strip deployment.
11:35-Advised SCC to have units respond code three to containment.
11:53-Advised SCC to have units return to surveillance mode.
13:20-Spike Strip deployment on 43rd Street.
13:44-Watch Commander in contact with Lakewood Sheriff's Station regarding crime report.
15:04-Requested speed and traffic update.
15:36-Requested verification following units in surveillance mode.
18:50-Advised SCC news channels broadcasting pursuit.
19:26-Requested speed and traffic update.
20:00-Requested Air-21 to coordinate Spike Strip deployment.
22:25-Requested speed and traffic update.
24:19-Acknowleges Deputy involved shooting.
26:14-Confirmed with SCC containment in place.
27:45-Confirmed AR-15 deployed.

REVIEW OF VIDEO:

Surveillance video from [redacted] (times obtained from video display. Time on display is fifty five minutes slower than actual time).

West 43rd Street, east facing camera.

04:13:49-Suspect driving east past [redacted] 43rd Street.
04:14:13-Deputies drive east.
04:14:43-Suspect drives east, past sergeant's vehicle.
04:14:48-Deputies drive east.
04:15:48-Suspect stopped in front of [redacted] 43rd Street. Deputies arrived and start to exit radio cars. Suspect continued east.
04:16:36-Suspect drove west on 43rd Street, stopped and opened vehicle door. Drives west, deputies follow.
04:29:18-Suspect drive east, stopped in front of [redacted] 43rd Street. Exits vehicle and walked west. Suspect Puga raises firearm and fires west.
04:29:48-Suspect Puga runs in front of vehicle to [redacted] 43rd Street.
04:30:02-Deputies approached [redacted] 43rd Street, using radio cars as cover.

04:58:02-First Special Enforcement Bureau K-9 unit arrives.

West 43rd Street, west facing camera.

04:13:46-Suspect drives east.
04:14:01-Deputies drive east.
04:15:26-Suspect drives east.
04:16:26-Suspect drives west, turned north on Vermont Avenue, deputies follow.
04:29:15-Suspect drive east.
04:29:24-Deputies Rojas and Estrella stop. Deputies Gomez and Reyes stop behind Rojas and Estrella. Deputies Williams and Stewart stop to the south of Deputies Rojas and Estrella. Sergeant Clay stopped.
04:29:37-Deputies Rojas and Gomez shoot from Deputy Rojas' driver's door. Deputy Estrella shoots from passenger's door.
04:30:02-Deputies and radio cars make approach east.

YouTube video (Windows Media player digital display times).

03:15-Suspect drives into oncoming traffic.
03:29-Spike Strip deployment.
04:04-Suspect almost hits a skateboarder in crosswalk.
06:05-Suspect Puga stops vehicle on West 43rd Street. Suspect exits vehicle, removing a firearm from his waistband with his right hand and points the firearm at responding deputies.
06:11-Suspect Puga chambers a round into his firearm, walked west at the deputies making gestures.
06:18-Suspect Puga fired at deputies, appeared to be stuck by return fire.
06:19-Suspect Puga retreats, while continuing to fire at deputies.
06:21-Suspect Puga falls to the ground and runs to the front porch of West 958 43rd Street.
06:38-Suspect Puga sits on porch holding firearm in right hand. Blood stains showing on t/shirt.
06:57-Deputies approach Suspect Puga, utilizing radio cars for cover.
11:23-Deputies start containment, AR-15 deployed.
12:36-First Special Enforcement Bureau members arrive.
12:56-Special Enforcement Bureau takes over containment.
14:41-Suspect Puga walks to Special Enforcement Bureau armored vehicle. Deputy Gomez giving direction to Suspect Puga. Suspect Puga smokes Methamphetamine and throws Methamphetamine pipe down.
16:10-Suspect Puga taken into custody.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

DEPUTY INVOLVED HIT SHOOTING

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

IAB Note: A CD copy of the radio traffic, cold line, and video footage is included in the IAB case book as (Exhibit G).

WEAPONS USED BY DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL:

Deputy Rojas

Service Weapon type:	Sig Sauer 9MM Semi-Automatic
Rounds Fired:	13
Type of Ammunition:	Department issued 147gr (Win) 9mm Luger
Date Employee Last Qualified:	[redacted]
Equipment:	Class A uniform. Duty belt with handcuffs, two magazines, radio, baton and OC spray.

Deputy Estrella

Service Weapon type:	Beretta 9mm Semi-Automatic
Rounds Fired:	7
Type of Ammunition:	Department issued 147gr (Win) 9mm Luger
Date Employee Last Qualified:	[redacted]
Equipment:	Class A uniform. Duty belt with handcuffs, two magazines, radio, baton and OC spray.

Deputy Gomez

Service Weapon type:	Smith & Wesson 9mm Semi-Automatic
Rounds Fired:	17
Type of Ammunition:	Department issued 147gr (Win) 9mm Luger
Date Employee Last Qualified:	[redacted]
Equipment:	Class A uniform. Duty belt with handcuffs, two magazines, radio, baton and OC spray.

WEAPON USED BY SUSPECT:

Suspect Puga was armed with an Ekol Firat, semi-automatic, silver 9mm "movie prop" firearm serial number [redacted]. The firearm contained one magazine loaded with six OZK 9mm F.A. cartridges.

PROPERTY DAMAGE:

The property damage is described in **(Exhibit A, pages 51-54)**.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

DEPUTY INVOLVED HIT SHOOTING

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS/CHARGES FILED:

Investigators: Los Angeles County Homicide Detectives Aden Torres and Francis Hardiman.

Charges: Suspect Puga pled guilty to 273.5(F) (2) P.C., Spousal Assault, and 69 P.C., Obstruct or Resist an Executive Officer. Subject Puga was sentenced to seven years State Prison. Copies of the court documents are included in the IAB case book in **(Miscellaneous Documents)**.

LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The incident took place on a clear sunny day at approximately 1725 hours.

STATEMENTS:

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau investigators interviewed the following Department personnel: Sergeant Clay, Deputies Rojas, Estrella, Gomez, Reyes, Williams and Stewart. The interviews were summarized in **(Exhibit A, pages 3-23)**. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau investigators provided a CD **(Exhibit G)** with the audio recordings of the interviews. IAB investigators had the interviews transcribed. For verbatim statements, see the attached transcribed interviews in the IAB case book.

Internal Affairs Bureau investigators interviewed the following Department personnel: Lieutenant Moore, Sergeant's Clay and Mills, Deputies Rojas, Estrella, Gomez, Reyes, Williams and Stewart. Diagrams and photographs used for each interview are included in the IAB case book **(Exhibits D-F)**.

Deputy Alan Rojas

Deputy Rojas stated he and his partner (Deputy Estrella) were driving east on 99th Street approaching Budlong Avenue. Deputy Rojas saw a vehicle on 99th Street, which matched the description of an armed and dangerous vehicle out of Lakewood Sheriff's Station. Deputy Rojas stated Deputy Estrella entered the vehicle's license plate into the SVS system, using the MDC terminal in their patrol car. Deputy Rojas stated the vehicle stopped in the middle of the street and the driver (Suspect Puga) exited the vehicle as the "wanted" return came back on the MDC. Deputy Rojas stated he had not activated his overhead lights to pull the vehicle over; the Suspect had stopped on his own accord.

Deputy Rojas exited the radio car and attempted to detain Suspect Puga at gunpoint. Suspect Puga yelled at Deputy Rojas "Fuck you," then got back into his vehicle and drove east on 99th Street. Deputy Rojas got into his radio car and turned on his lights and siren, while Deputy Estrella broadcasted that they were in pursuit.

Deputy Rojas stated Suspect Puga drove at a high rate of speed and ran numerous red lights and stop signs during the pursuit. Suspect Puga also struck another vehicle. Deputy Rojas stated the pursuit lasted approximately five minutes before Air-21 arrived overhead and began to broadcast the pursuit. Soon after Air-21 arrived, Deputy Rojas stated the pursuit was directed to surveillance mode. Deputy Rojas slowed the radio car down, but Suspect Puga continued to run red lights and stop signs. Suspect Puga almost struck pedestrians and would drive into oncoming lanes of traffic. Deputy Rojas said Suspect Puga would slow down and stop during surveillance mode to allow the following units to catch up to him. Deputy Rojas stated he and assisting units in the pursuit had approximately fifteen to twenty car lengths between the Suspect's vehicle and the following deputies. Deputy Rojas stated if Suspect Puga stopped, the plan was to initiate a felony traffic stop. If Suspect Puga ran, the units would set up a containment.

Deputy Rojas stated Suspect Puga turned east on West 43rd Street from Vermont Avenue. He heard Air-21 advise Suspect Puga had exited his vehicle and for the units to move in. Deputy Rojas stated as he drove onto West 43rd Street he saw Suspect Puga standing outside of his vehicle and Deputy Rojas saw a silver firearm in Suspect Puga's right hand. At the same time Air-21 broadcasted that Suspect Puga was armed. Deputy Rojas said Suspect Puga was facing him (west) and walked directly toward him. Suspect Puga "racked" his firearm as if to chamber a round. Suspect Puga pointed the firearm at him and the other deputies, Deputy Rojas yelled at Suspect Puga to get on the ground. Suspect Puga pointed the firearm at Deputy Rojas and other deputies and shot.

Fearing for his life and the lives of the other deputies, Deputy Rojas shot thirteen rounds at Suspect Puga, from an approximate distance of fifty to sixty yards. Deputy Rojas stated his backdrop was Suspect Puga's vehicle. Deputy Rojas saw Suspect Puga fall to the ground, then get up and run. Deputy Rojas tactically reloaded his duty weapon, got back into his patrol car, and drove east on 43rd Street, using his vehicle as cover. Deputy Rojas parked his radio car west of Suspect Puga, who was on the porch of [redacted] West 43rd Street. He could not see Suspect Puga, but he heard over the radio that Deputies Williams and Gomez had deployed an AR-15, and could see Suspect Puga. He could hear Deputy Gomez communicating with Suspect Puga. Deputy Rojas stated they had formulated an arrest team if they needed to move in to arrest Suspect Puga. Deputy Rojas was then relieved by another deputy and transported to South Los

Angeles Station. Deputy Rojas said he could hear other deputies shooting during the incident, but he could not see who they were.

Deputy Javier Estrella

Deputy Estrella stated he was working with Deputy Rojas (driver) and was driving east on 99th Street, approaching Budlong Avenue. He saw a white Tahoe which matched the description of wanted felony vehicle out of Lakewood Sheriff's Station. Deputy Estrella ran the vehicle's license plate through SVS from his MDC terminal. Simultaneously the vehicle stopped, and the driver (Suspect Puga) got out of the vehicle. Deputy Rojas got out of the radio car and attempted to detain Suspect Puga. Deputy Estrella stated the vehicle returned as the wanted vehicle, and he put out emergent radio traffic that they were detaining a felony suspect.

Suspect Puga got back into the Tahoe and drove east on 99th Street. Deputy Estrella advised SCC they were in pursuit of the felony vehicle. Deputy Estrella stated Suspect Puga was driving at a high rate of speed and was running red lights and stop signs. Deputy Estrella stated Suspect Puga made numerous turns during the pursuit. Deputy Estrella broadcasted the pursuit until Air-21 arrived overhead and took over calling the pursuit. Deputy Estrella stated the pursuit was put into surveillance mode due to the way Suspect Puga was driving. Once they were in surveillance mode, the involved patrol units dropped way back out of view of Suspect Puga to give Suspect Puga room to slow down. Deputy Estrella stated Suspect Puga continued to drive erratic and he continued to circle around 43rd Street.

Deputy Estrella stated they were advised by Air-21 Suspect Puga had stopped on West 43rd Street. Deputy Estrella stated they were still on Vermont Avenue and were turning east onto 43rd Street when Air-21 advised the units to be careful because Suspect Puga had a firearm. Deputy Estrella saw Suspect Puga standing next to the white Tahoe with a firearm in his right hand, and made gestures at them.

Deputy Estrella stated they stopped the patrol car and got out using the vehicle's car doors for cover. He saw Suspect Puga walk toward them, yelling and making hand gestures, and pointing a firearm at them. Deputy Estrella stated Suspect Puga "racked" the weapon, pointed it at the deputies and shot. Deputy Estrella saw Suspect Puga's firearm recoil as Suspect Puga fired. Deputy Estrella stated he returned fire at Suspect Puga, at a distance of fifty or sixty yards, because he was in fear for his life and the lives of the other deputies. Deputy Estrella stated he used his sights, and his backdrop was Suspect Puga's vehicle. After Deputy Estrella fired, he saw Suspect Puga run to the front of his vehicle. As Suspect Puga was running, he continued to shoot at the deputies. Suspect Puga continued to run until he reached the porch of [redacted] West 43rd Street.

Deputy Estrella stated they formulated a plan for an arrest team, crisis entry team, and containment on Suspect Puga's location. Deputy Estrella was assigned to carry the ballistic shield as they approached Suspect Puga, directed by Air-21. Deputy Estrella said they used a patrol car for cover as he was shielding other deputies with the ballistic shield. The patrol car was parked west of Suspect Puga's location and a containment was established. Deputy Gomez was communicating with Suspect Puga, and the other deputies were waiting for SEB to arrive. Deputy Estrella stated when SEB arrived, he assisted with unlocking a gate in front of the residence where Suspect Puga was. Deputy Estrella was then relieved and transported back to South Los Angeles Station.

Deputy Samuel Gomez

Deputy Gomez stated he was working Unit 31 with his partner, Deputy Reyes. Deputy Gomez was the driver and Deputy Reyes was the passenger. Deputy Gomez heard Unit 32 (Deputies Rojas and Estrella), were in pursuit of a felony armed and dangerous vehicle. Deputy Gomez advised SCC he was responding to the pursuit and got involved in the pursuit at Normandy Avenue and Manchester Avenue. He and Deputy Reyes were the second unit in the pursuit. Deputy Gomez stated the pursuit was put into surveillance mode and they backed way off. The Suspect would slow down or stop and the units would have to re-engage. Deputy Gomez stated Suspect Puga did that at least three times during the pursuit. Deputy Gomez saw Suspect Puga run numerous stop lights and stop signs during the pursuit.

Deputy Gomez stated Suspect Puga stopped on 43rd Street and got out of his vehicle. Deputy Gomez was still on Vermont Avenue and he was the second car back when they turned onto 43rd street. Air-21 advised the units that Suspect Puga had a gun, so the units stopped abruptly and he pulled his patrol car to the left (north) of Deputies Rojas and Estrella. Deputy Gomez stopped and saw Deputies Williams and Stewart getting out of their radio car.

Deputy Gomez told Deputy Williams to get his rifle, and ran up to the left of Deputy Rojas, using Deputy Rojas' vehicle door as cover. Deputy Gomez saw Suspect Puga advancing on them with a firearm in his right hand. Suspect Puga was "cussing" at the deputies and he pulled the slide back on the firearm and pointed the firearm at the deputies. Deputy Gomez stated he heard Deputies Rojas and Estrella shoot. Deputy Gomez stated he fired at Suspect Puga because Suspect Puga was shooting at him and the other deputies and he feared for their safety. Deputy Gomez stated the back drop for his shots was the suspect's vehicle.

Deputy Gomez said, after shooting, he tactically reloaded his duty weapon as Suspect Puga ran to [redacted] 43rd street. Deputy Gomez said he took command and had deputies physically check each other for injuries. He then asked Air-21 to guide them in to

Suspect Puga's location. Deputy Gomez said they approached Suspect Puga's location, and he (Deputy Gomez) assigned deputies to evacuate surrounding houses, and assigned other deputies to less lethal weapons. Deputy Gomez and Deputy Williams took cover behind a vehicle directly across the street from Suspect Puga. Deputy Williams was armed with the AR-15 rifle. Deputy Gomez continued to talk to Suspect Puga in an effort to talk Suspect Puga into to putting his firearm down and prevent him from entering the house. Deputy Gomez was able to convince Suspect Puga to put the firearm down and he continued to talk to Suspect Puga until SEB arrived. Deputy Gomez said Suspect Puga smoked Methamphetamine approximately four times during the approximately one hour and twenty minutes he was on the porch, until the time he surrendered.

Deputy Gomez stated when SEB arrived he was initially relieved, but was directed to return because Suspect Puga did not want to talk to anyone other than Deputy Gomez. Deputy Gomez continued to communicate with Suspect Puga until he surrendered. Deputy Gomez was then transported to South Los Angeles Station.

Sergeant Michael Clay

Sergeant Clay stated he was working as 31S and was at South Los Angeles Station when he heard the pursuit initiated. Sergeant Clay responded to the pursuit in approximately three to five minutes in the area of 43rd street and Vermont Avenue. Sergeant Clay stated Suspect Puga circled the area of 43rd Street and Vermont Avenue and, during the pursuit, a deputy attempted to deploy Spike Strips. Sergeant Clay stated Suspect Puga stopped his vehicle on 43rd Street and exited his vehicle. Air-21 advised that Suspect Puga was armed with a gun. Sergeant Clay was the last vehicle to turn on 43rd Street and could see Suspect Puga with a handgun. He said Suspect Puga started to run toward the deputies and the deputies began to shoot. Sergeant Clay stated there were numerous deputies between Suspect Puga and himself, so he took cover behind a vehicle and did not shoot at Suspect Puga because of the deputies in front of him.

Sergeant Clay heard the deputies return fire and he saw Suspect Puga retreat and run to a house on the south side of 43rd Street. Sergeant Clay stated Deputy Gomez had devised a plan to approach Suspect Puga, and he (Sergeant Clay) led the arrest team. Sergeant Clay said the situation became a barricaded suspect situation, and SEB responded. Sergeant Clay was relieved and responded to the command post, prior to being transported to South Los Angeles Station.

Deputy Mark Reyes

Deputy Reyes stated he was working Unit 32 with Deputy Gomez and he was the passenger. He and Deputy Gomez became involved in a pursuit. Deputy Reyes stated the pursuit ended on 43rd Street and they stopped behind Deputies Rojas and Estrella. Deputy Reyes stated Suspect Puga exited his vehicle with a firearm in his right hand. Suspect Puga "racked the slide" and Deputy Reyes did not have a clear shot so he moved to cover. Deputy Reyes heard shots but could not tell who fired. Deputy Reyes did not hear any commands or what Suspect Puga said prior to the shooting.

After the shooting, Deputy Reyes moved up with the radio car and maintained visual of Suspect Puga while Deputy Gomez attempted to convince Suspect Puga to surrender. While watching Suspect Puga he observed Suspect Puga smoking Methamphetamine and drink from a water hose until he (Deputy Reyes) was relieved by SEB.

Deputy Brandon Williams

Deputy Williams stated he was working Unit 31B with Deputy Stewart. Deputy Williams was driving and Deputy Stewart was the passenger. Deputy Williams responded to Deputies Rojas' and Estrella's pursuit. They became involved in the pursuit approximately eight minutes after it was initiated. Deputy Williams stated they joined the pursuit at Florence Avenue and Normandy Avenue. During the pursuit, he witnessed Suspect Puga fail to stop for stop lights or stop signs. The pursuit was changed to surveillance mode but Suspect Puga continued to drive at a high rate of speed and failed to stop for red lights and stop signs.

Deputy Williams stated Suspect Puga stopped and exited his vehicle on 43rd Street. Air-21 advised that Suspect Puga had a firearm. As he exited the patrol car, Deputy Williams saw Suspect Puga with the gun. Deputy Williams ran toward Unit 32's vehicle for cover as Suspect Puga "racked" the slide of the gun. Deputy Williams estimated Suspect Puga was approximately seventy yards east of them when Suspect Puga pointed the gun at them and fired approximately three rounds. Suspect Puga was screaming like he was angry, but he could not hear what he was saying. Deputy Williams said he saw Deputies Gomez and Rojas return fire at Suspect Puga. Deputy Williams stated he attempted to fire at Suspect Puga, but his weapon malfunctioned. He cleared his weapon and attempted to locate Suspect Puga but Suspect Puga was out of sight.

Deputy Williams retrieved his M-4 patrol rifle and took cover behind a vehicle across the street from Suspect Puga. He stayed there covering Deputy Gomez, who was communicating with Suspect Puga. Deputy Williams observed Suspect Puga smoke

Methamphetamine and drink water from the water hose. Deputy Williams continued to cover Suspect Puga until he was relieved by SEB.

Deputy Alan Stewart

Deputy Stewart stated he was working Unit 31B as the passenger and Deputy Williams was driving. Deputy Stewart responded to Deputy Rojas and Estrella's vehicle pursuit. They were the third car in the pursuit. He described the driving by Suspect Puga as "pretty crazy." At the end of the pursuit, Deputy Stewart saw Suspect Puga exit the white Tahoe with a silver firearm and point it at the deputies. Deputy Stewart went to the trunk of his radio car to retrieve the M-4 patrol rifle. Deputy Stewart stated the shooting occurred while he was at the trunk and he did not see the shooting. Deputy Stewart heard the gun shots and described it as one burst. Deputy Stewart then gave the patrol rifle to Deputy Williams.

Sergeant Steve Mills

Sergeant Mills stated he was the observer in Air-21, and the pilot was Deputy Jim Wolfhope, #[redacted]. Sergeant Mills stated he responded to a vehicle pursuit in South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station's area. They arrived overhead of the pursuit in approximately five to six minutes. Suspect Puga was driving in circles and the pursuit was changed to surveillance mode. Sergeant Mills said Suspect Puga would slow down and wait for the deputies to catch up to him, and on a few occasions, he stopped. Sergeant Mills continued to follow Suspect Puga until he stopped his vehicle on 43rd, east of Vermont Avenue. He saw Suspect Puga exit the vehicle holding a silver handgun in his right hand. He advised the deputies that Suspect Puga was armed, but did not see if the deputies had turned onto 43rd Street.

Sergeant Mills stated Suspect Puga raised the weapon and fired at the deputies. Sergeant Mills focused on the suspect and did not see the deputies return fire. By the way Suspect Puga ducked down and glass was flying from Suspect Puga's vehicle, he assumed the deputies were shooting back. Sergeant Mills remained overhead, assisted with containment and evacuation, by keeping Suspect Puga under observation. He eventually saw Suspect Puga surrender to SEB.

Lieutenant Rodney Moore

Lieutenant Moore stated he was the Watch Commander at South Los Angeles Station during the incident. He heard the pursuit initiated and immediately responded to the desk area where he established a direct phone line to SCC (cold line). Lieutenant Moore monitored and took overall command of the pursuit. He stated the pursuit varied from surveillance mode to actively pursuing the suspect based on the suspect's actions.

Lieutenant Moore attempted several pursuit intervention techniques, surveillance mode and the deployment of Spike Strips. He (Lieutenant Moore) contacted Lakewood Sheriff's Station during the pursuit and verified the crimes that had been perpetrated by Suspect Puga, and it was the severity of the of the crimes that contributed to his decision-making in letting the pursuit continue.

Lieutenant Moore said based on the professionalism of the field deputies, Aero Bureau, as well as the serious nature of the crimes, he believed allowing the Suspect to go, would have put the citizens of South Los Angeles in imminent danger.

NON-DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL:

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homicide Bureau investigators interviewed the following witnesses and non-Department personnel: Witnesses [redacted], [redacted]. Los Angeles County Homicide Bureau investigators interviewed Suspect Puga. The Interviews were summarized in **(Exhibit A, pages 23-29 and 56-64) and Suspect Puga (pages 31-34)**. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homicide Bureau investigators provided a CD **(Exhibit G)** with the audio recordings of the interviews. IAB Investigators had the interviews transcribed.

Witness [redacted]

Witness [redacted] stated she had been [redacted] to the suspect for approximately twenty three months. During the [redacted] she had been struck or beat over two hundred times. She had [redacted] and had made numerous calls and reports of domestic violence.

Witness [redacted] reiterated what she had reported to Lakewood Sheriff's Station on March 8, 2015, documenting the domestic violence, kidnapping, and assault with the firearm **(Exhibit A, pages 148-187)**. Witness [redacted] did not have contact with Suspect Puga during the incident.

Witness [redacted]

Witness [redacted] stated she had known Suspect Puga for approximately two years, and thought of him as a [redacted]. Witness [redacted] had invited Suspect Puga for a barbeque on the day of the incident. Witness [redacted] heard Suspect Puga drive by her house because his vehicle makes a distinct sound. After Suspect Puga drove by she heard a helicopter. Witness [redacted] called Suspect Puga by cell phone and asked Suspect Puga if the police were chasing him. Suspect Puga told her yes and that the helicopter was on him. Witness [redacted] asked Suspect Puga to pull over, but Suspect Puga told

her he could not because he had a gun. Witness [redacted] told Suspect Puga to throw the gun out and stop and Witness [redacted] cell phone went dead.

Witness [redacted] [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) told her to go outside because Suspect Puga was driving by again. Suspect Puga stopped in front of their house and Witness [redacted] was at the gate and talked to Suspect Puga. Suspect Puga drove off when the radio cars pulled in behind. Witness [redacted] talked to Suspect Puga two additional times during the pursuit and continued to tell Suspect Puga to stop. Witness [redacted] stated Suspect Puga was saying his "good-bye." Witness [redacted] stated she was on the cell phone with Suspect Puga at the end of the pursuit. She said she was watching on television and saw Suspect Puga "point the gun" and shoot at the deputies.

Witness [redacted]

Witness [redacted] stated he heard Suspect Puga drive by his house followed by a helicopter. He ran outside and called Suspect Puga's cell phone. Suspect Puga told Witness [redacted] he was going to come back. Suspect Puga stopped in front of Witness [redacted] and opened the car door. The police stopped behind Suspect Puga and Suspect Puga drove off again. Witness [redacted] called Suspect Puga's cell phone again and tried to convince Suspect Puga to stop. Suspect Puga said he had a gun and "they would kill him." Witness [redacted] handed the cell phone to his [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) and she continued to talk to Suspect Puga.

Witness [redacted]

Witness [redacted] stated she is the [redacted] of Witness [redacted]. She saw Suspect Puga stop in front of her house in his vehicle.

Witness [redacted] said she knew Suspect Puga had assaulted Witness [redacted] with a "pistol," and she did not like him. Witness [redacted] locked the front door and got on the floor with four minor children. She heard gunshots, but did not see anyone shooting. She was not aware Suspect Puga was on her front porch, until a deputy called her. She was escorted from her house by deputies after approximately thirty minutes.

Suspect Hector Puga

Suspect Puga stated he was involved in a physical confrontation with Witness [redacted] on March 8, 2015, but struck her only as a reaction from Witness [redacted] striking him. He stated he believed he caused Witness [redacted] head to bleed. Suspect Puga said he did not have a gun with him during the incident. Suspect Puga

bought the "fake gun" approximately a week before his shooting off of a website called "Offer Up."

IAB Note: "Offer Up" is a website where people buy and sell a wide variety of new and used items.

On March 13, 2015, Suspect Puga had consumed a couple of bottles of "Patron" tequila, and saw the police pull in behind him. Fearing the police would take his vehicle, he fled from 99th Street and Budlong Avenue. Suspect Puga stated the police chased him to 43rd Street where Witness [redacted] lives (Witness [redacted]). Suspect Puga estimated he drove between forty and fifty miles per hour, and drove onto the opposite side of the roadway to avoid the police "popping" his tires. Suspect Puga admitted to driving dangerously during the pursuit. Suspect Puga stated he talked to his [redacted] (Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted]) during the pursuit.

Suspect Puga stated he did not care anymore and wanted the police to kill him. That is why he had a "fake gun." He said he knew the police would kill him if he had a gun. Suspect Puga denied pointing the firearm at the deputies.

IAB Note: Homicide investigators recorded Suspect Puga's telephone calls. On the recordings, Suspect Puga can be heard talking about shooting it out with the "police" (Exhibit G).

For complete statements made, more information, and precise wording, see the attached verbatim interview transcriptions.